

REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</p> <p>2 SENATOR CHARLIE CLARY</p> <p>3 SENATOR DARYL L. JONES</p> <p>4 SENATOR JACK LATVALA</p> <p>5 SENATOR ALFRED LAWSON, JR.</p> <p>6 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.</p> <p>7 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY BALL</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS BAXLEY</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN BENSE</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE DON BROWN</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR.</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE DICK KRAVITZ</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE JERRY G. MELVIN</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS B. RICHARDSON</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 constituents. We must not diminish their voice by taking</p> <p>2 up valuable time today in debate.</p> <p>3 Following my brief remarks counsel will give a general</p> <p>4 overview of legal considerations of redistricting. Staff</p> <p>5 will then provide some specific information about census</p> <p>6 results in this region and the state. The rest is reserved</p> <p>7 for you, the citizens.</p> <p>8 Every ten years after the completion of the national</p> <p>9 census the Constitution requires that the Florida</p> <p>10 Legislature redraw boundaries for all districts of the</p> <p>11 Florida House, the Florida Senate, and the United States</p> <p>12 Congress.</p> <p>13 The Legislature will take up this task in the</p> <p>14 legislative session that begins January 22nd, 2002, and</p> <p>15 ends March 22nd, 2002. The districts that are drawn will</p> <p>16 first be used in the elections held in November of 2002.</p> <p>17 Redistricting is a central element of our</p> <p>18 representative democracy and we take this on with humility</p> <p>19 and due regard to the importance of the difficult job. We</p> <p>20 are also committed to the process, that it will be fair and</p> <p>21 open and inclusive. These public hearings represent the</p> <p>22 first crucial step in this process. We appreciate that we</p> <p>23 are doing the work of the people. We want to hear from you</p> <p>24 and help you participate in a meaningful way.</p> <p>25 To encourage public participation Senate President</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Everyone stand for the Pledge.</p> <p>3 (Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Good morning, I'm Daniel Webster,</p> <p>5 chairman of the Senate Redistricting Committee and member</p> <p>6 of the Senate from District 12 in Orlando. Thank you for</p> <p>7 coming today, it's my pleasure to welcome you to this one</p> <p>8 of many -- actually the next to last meeting that we will</p> <p>9 be having throughout the state. We have had meetings</p> <p>10 starting in the summer and throughout the fall, 24 in total</p> <p>11 is how many we will have. Let me first explain the</p> <p>12 procedure we will be using in this hearing and our final</p> <p>13 one tomorrow night in Gainesville.</p> <p>14 This is a public hearing, the sole purpose and only</p> <p>15 purpose is to hear from the public on matters of</p> <p>16 redistricting. This is not a committee meeting, we are not</p> <p>17 taking legislative action in this or our next and last</p> <p>18 hearing; instead, this is the public forum where we have</p> <p>19 the opportunity to hear and receive input from you, the</p> <p>20 citizens, about your electoral districts.</p> <p>21 It's not a time for legislative debate. All</p> <p>22 Representatives and Senators will have numerous</p> <p>23 opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and in floor</p> <p>24 debate to have their say and their member -- and their</p> <p>25 wishes and concerns considered. Today, however, is for our</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled 24</p> <p>2 hearings throughout the state. All members of the</p> <p>3 legislative redistricting committees as well as local</p> <p>4 delegation members have been invited to participate.</p> <p>5 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool</p> <p>6 for public input. The web addresses for the House and for</p> <p>7 the Senate are available at the information table out</p> <p>8 front. A link is also be available from the Florida</p> <p>9 legislative web site. The redistricting plan for the State</p> <p>10 House and State Senate will be passed in the form of a</p> <p>11 joint resolution. It will not be subject to the Governor's</p> <p>12 approval or veto but will be subject to review by the</p> <p>13 Florida Supreme Court. The Congressional plan will pass as</p> <p>14 a bill and will not be reviewed by the Supreme Court but</p> <p>15 will be subject to the approval or veto of the Governor.</p> <p>16 I encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000</p> <p>17 Census; it is the essential building block on which</p> <p>18 Florida's redistricting plans will be built. The address</p> <p>19 for the United States Census web site is also available at</p> <p>20 the information table.</p> <p>21 We are here to listen and consider your voice. We</p> <p>22 encourage each member of the public to testify and help us</p> <p>23 craft your legislative districts. We also encourage</p> <p>24 written submissions in addition to the testimony during the</p> <p>25 public hearing. Anyone wishing to speak must fill out a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 speaker's card which are available at the front table. 2 This is the only way that we will know who wishes to speak, 3 and after the meeting, who actually spoke. We want to hear 4 from as many people as possible; therefore, we must limit 5 comments to four minutes. 6 On behalf of Senate President John McKay, House 7 Speaker Tom Feeney and the members of the Legislature I 8 look forward to working with all of you on this historic 9 and important task. 10 At this time I would like to recognize Senator -- 11 former Senator Jim Scott who served during the last 12 reapportionment process and he is the Senate's lead counsel 13 on reapportionment and redistricting. Senator Scott. 14 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I just 15 want to take one -- I want to welcome you to my second 16 home, Panama City. I feel like I have spent a lot of years 17 and have a ranch near here and I also don't want to go by 18 the opportunity to mention former Senator Dempsey Barron 19 and all of the work that he did in reapportionment, 20 including the formation of single-member districts which 21 resulted in 1982 reapportionment when we went to single 22 member resulted in the first minority member of the Florida 23 Senate. 24 My job today is to give you a brief overview of the 25 law on redistricting, especially for members of the public. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 goes to the Florida Supreme Court for the court to 2 determine its validity. If they determine it's valid, then 3 it would go into effect so far as the state is concerned. 4 If not, then the Legislature, it would be sent back and 5 within five days there would be another session, not to 6 exceed 15 days for the Legislature to have a final chance 7 to do the reapportionment. If not, at that point, then the 8 Court would do it. 9 There are certain redistricting principles that the 10 Legislature is guided by, including the principle of one 11 person, one vote and the requirement of the Florida 12 Constitution and the United States Constitution and Federal 13 statutes. One person, one vote, this principle came from a 14 series of cases from the United States Supreme Court in the 15 1960s. It stands generally for the proposition that each 16 person's vote in Florida should count as much as anyone 17 else's vote. 18 Prior to these cases and this determination, one 19 example comes to mind. I believe every county in the state 20 had one Senator even though some counties may only have had 21 8,000 or 10,000 people and Dade County had several hundred 22 thousand people. And I think this illustrates the 23 malapportionment, as is the term used by the Court. So, 24 the Court has determined that each district should have an 25 equal number of people. And the staff, in a moment, John DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 I don't think that there's any member -- anybody that 2 hasn't heard this, and might be able to recite it, raise 3 their hand. But in any event, as the Chairman 4 indicated, this duty falls on the Legislature every ten 5 years after the census. This year, with regard to the 6 Congressional Redistricting, there are two new seats added 7 to Florida, and we go from 23 to 25. And the duty there 8 will be to divide the state into 25 equal Congressional 9 Districts. 10 With regard to the House and Senate, 40 members of the 11 Senate and 120 members of the House, although it could be 12 less under the Constitution. This has traditionally not 13 happened. The territory is to be contiguous, overlapping 14 or identical. And as the Chairman indicated, regular 15 session will start in January and end in March, it's hoped 16 that the Legislature will finish this job during that 17 session. 18 If somehow you didn't, it would be called back for a 19 30-day session by the Governor and at that point if you 20 still do not do it, the Florida Supreme Court would 21 commence deliberation and within 60 days of the filing of a 22 petition, the Florida Supreme Court would redistrict the 23 state. 24 If you do pass it, a Congressional plan goes to the 25 Governor for his approval or veto. The legislative plan DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 Guthrie, will explain what the current numbers are for this 2 redistricting in both Congressional House and Senate. 3 However, neither the Florida Constitution nor the 4 courts have required exact mathematical precision with 5 regard to those ideal numbers. For Congressional, which is 6 the strictest standard, the courts do not allow much 7 deviation, perhaps as much as 1 percent in certain 8 circumstances. So if you divide the state into 25 9 Congressional Districts of the ideal number, then you could 10 deviate as much as 1 percent. However, in House and Senate 11 Legislative Districts, the courts have permitted deviation 12 up to 10 percent from the ideal number in certain 13 circumstances. 14 The Voting Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection 15 Clause of the Federal Constitution had become over the 16 course of the last 30 years important elements in any 17 legislative deliberations regarding redistricting. There 18 are two sections that are important. Section 2 prohibits 19 any practice or procedure which, including redistricting 20 practices, that impair the ability of a minority community 21 to elect candidates of choice on an equal basis with 22 nonminority voters. 23 Florida also is one of the states that is affected by 24 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 requires 25 that states that have covered jurisdiction submit prior to DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 implementation of any proposed change to their voting 2 practices or procedures, including redistricting or changes 3 in the district, that they submit this for approval of 4 either the Attorney General of the United States or the 5 Federal District Court for the District of Columbia. 6 This process is known as preclearance. In Florida we 7 have five jurisdictions that are covered, Collier, Hardee, 8 Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe counties. These requests, 9 most of them, are made to the Attorney General's Office. I 10 think that will be our intent again, as in the past, to 11 apply to the Attorney General for this clearance. 12 This application will not be formally made until after 13 the plan becomes final, which means approved by the Florida 14 Supreme Court. And at that time it will be submitted and 15 the Attorney General has up to 60 days to object to the 16 plan. If they do not object it would become final after 60 17 days, or if they approve it at an earlier date. Either 18 through, well, the Court or the Attorney General's Office, 19 the test and covered jurisdiction bears the burden of 20 demonstrating that the proposed voting change does not have 21 the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or 22 abridging the right to vote on account of race, or color, 23 or membership in a language minority. 24 In conclusion, the legal rules are somewhat 25 complicated. We have had a number of changes in the past</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 Representatives will increase by two to a total of 25. The 2 other key fact that we need to consider when getting ready 3 for redistricting is that Florida's growth has not been 4 uniform. Some areas have grown quickly while others have 5 grown much more slowly. For instance, Flagler County on 6 the northeast coast was the fastest growing in Florida, it 7 grew at a rate of 73.6 percent. Four other Florida 8 counties grew at a rate of 60 percent or greater. 9 At the other end of the scale, Monroe County, which 10 was the slowest growing county in Florida, grew at rate of 11 only 2 percent. And there were three other Florida 12 counties that grew at a rate of 10 percent or less. 13 Now, looking another the Panhandle area, where we are 14 today, Bay County, the population increased by about 15 17 percent to 148,000, Bay County now ranks 25th among 16 Florida's 67 counties. Walton County, the population 17 increased quite rapidly, 46.3 percent to over 40,000 18 people. Holmes County, the population increased by 19 18 percent to almost 19,000 people. Washington County, the 20 population increased by 24 percent to almost 21,000 people. 21 Jackson County, the population increased by only 13 percent 22 now to a total of 46,755 people. Calhoun, the population 23 increased by 18 percent to 13,000 people. And Gulf County, 24 the population increased by 16 percent to 13,000 people. 25 As Senator Scott was mentioning, the predicate for</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 ten years in court decisions and there's some pretty 2 delicate issues, some of which have not yet been perhaps 3 fully decided by the courts. At this point, we stand ready 4 to assist you with this hearing or throughout the entire 5 process. My colleague, and I forgot to mention, Miguel 6 DeGrandy is the lead counsel for the House. So, thank you 7 Mr. Chairman and members. 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott. Now, at 9 this time, I would like to recognize John Guthrie, who is 10 the technical staff director for the Florida Senate 11 Redistricting Committee and he will give some details about 12 the state census and also those that might apply to this 13 particular area. Mr. Guthrie. 14 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you Chairman Webster, members of 15 the House and Senate. My task in the next few minutes is 16 to briefly outline the numerical context within which 17 redistricting will occur as we approach the 2002 18 redistricting regular session. There are two key facts 19 that we need to be aware of in considering the effect of 20 census numbers on redistricting in Florida. The first is 21 that Florida is a very rapidly growing state. Florida's 22 population increased by some 3 million people between 1990 23 and 2000. 24 As a result, as Senator Scott mentioned, Florida's 25 representation in the United States House of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 redistricting is the U.S. Constitution. Article 1 provides 2 that there shall be a decennial census; the purpose of the 3 census is to provide for equal representation based on 4 population. Based on the 2000 Census, Congressional, 5 Senate, and House Districts in Florida will all be adjusted 6 to equalize population. 7 Districts that now have substantially too many people 8 will become smaller and districts that are underpopulated 9 will need to gain territory in order to come up to the 10 target population. What is the target population? Well, 11 based on the 1990 Census, the average number of people per 12 Congressional District was about 563,000 people. And this 13 is going to increase by 14 percent to 640,000 people based 14 on the count taken of the population in April of 2000. 15 Similarly, with Senate and House Districts, the 16 average population per district based on the '90 Census was 17 323,000 for a Senate District and 108,000 for a House 18 District. Based on the 2000 Census, these numbers are 19 going to increase by 23 and a-half percent to 400,000 and 20 133,000, respectively, for Senate and House Districts. 21 We have a chart here that shows the relative size for 22 district populations for Congressional, Senate, and House 23 Districts in Florida based both on the 1990 and 2000 24 censuses. And you can see what the relative number of 25 constituents per district is.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 And another way to look at the difference in 2 population growth across different areas of the state is to 3 look at which areas have grown rapidly, which have grown 4 less rapidly. This map shows the change in population 5 density during the period of 1990 through 2000. And what 6 we see is that the urban areas have lost population or 7 become less dense, whereas the suburban areas have gained 8 population. 9 You also can look at the population growth in absolute 10 terms. This is the percentage increase in population from 11 1990 to 2000. Red areas show areas where the population 12 grew slower than the state average, blue areas are areas 13 where the population grew more rapidly than the state 14 average. What is the effect of this on representation? 15 Well, for the two Congressional Districts that are in this 16 area, the population is over -- there are too many people 17 in both of those Congressional Districts. District 1 is 18 over by approximately 45,000 people and District 2 is over 19 by approximately 39,000 people. 20 With Senate Districts we see a little bit different of 21 a pattern. The population of all three Senate Districts 22 that are in this area are pretty near what the target 23 population will be, the only exception being District 1, 24 which is slightly underpopulated, about 23,000 people. And 25 with House Districts, we see the same pattern. There are DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 are limiting your remarks to four minutes. We have a 2 little timer and we will try to warn you when you are about 3 30 to 20 from there. 4 Of course we welcome any written submissions that you 5 wish to present, and if you have any handouts, you can lay 6 them right up here on the front table and we will add those 7 to the record also. So, let's start with Number 1, 8 wherever you are, you are recognized. Number 1. 9 MR. UNDERWOOD: Mr. Chairman, Committee Members, thank 10 you for allowing me the time to speak before you. My name 11 is Mike Underwood and I am the County Administrator of 12 Walton County. And Walton County is very fortunate, I can 13 say, in that we have representation from two Florida 14 Senators and two House members and that's the way we want 15 to keep it. 16 We have two driving forces of economics in Northwest 17 Florida. One of them is agriculture and the other is 18 tourism, as you well know. These two industries have two 19 different needs for services and representation. The North 20 Walton County area, they are concerned with job stability, 21 creation of new jobs, concerned of welfare for its citizens 22 and agricultural concerns as to the decline of farming is 23 noted more and more each year. 24 Now, South Walton's interest is very different and it 25 is influenced by environmental concerns and transportation DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 handouts on the back table that are very similar to these 2 and show the under and overcount of all of the House, 3 Senate and Congressional Districts in Florida. 4 The public as well as members of the Legislature can 5 use the Senate's redistricting software, FREDs 2000 to 6 design or model what new districts may look like. And if 7 you were to zoom into this area and choose -- let's choose 8 15 counties and see what the population, the answer is that 9 with these 15 counties, the population would be 639,014 10 people, which is only 281 less than what the target 11 population is. It's quite easy to model and see what the 12 effect of different districts will be in terms of 13 population demographics. 14 For all of the information that we have covered here 15 this morning plus a lot more, members and the public are 16 encouraged to visit the Online Sunshine web site and then 17 follow the links to either Senate Redistricting or House 18 Redistricting. And that's my presentation, Mr. Chairman. 19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie. 20 Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, as I stated before, we 21 will be using speaker cards in order to recognize you. If 22 you want to speak you must fill one of these out. If you 23 want to and haven't, you go right out behind this wall here 24 and the staff will help you sign up. We are also going to 25 be calling you by number in ascending order. Remember, we DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 needs. Needs from beach renourishment to coastal lake 2 management, to more and more efficient plan development 3 without adverse effects on transportation in the 4 environment. 5 Please keep our representation of our coastal and our 6 beach areas separate from our representation in our 7 agricultural areas, for each have separate and complete 8 different concerns. Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number two. 10 MR. PAULS: Good morning, my name is Tim Pauls, I am a 11 Walton County commissioner in District 5. This is a little 12 district that is bordered by the beach and the bay and we 13 have the highest concentration of people in Walton County 14 in our area. My comments basically are just to reiterate 15 what Mr. Underwood has said in terms of communities of 16 interest. 17 A recent study that's been done shows that within the 18 last ten years about 90 percent of the projects reviewed by 19 the planning commission in Walton County have been done 20 south of the bay. So I believe that you can see where our 21 growth is happening and that that community of interest has 22 different issues than the areas that are not experiencing 23 such rapid growth and development. 24 The other thing that will I would like to just stress 25 is that there are times, I believe, as you look at DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 redistricting that the district should not stop just at a 2 county line for no other reason. Because these 3 communities, as they are growing affect each other, 4 Okaloosa County, Walton County, and Bay County are all very 5 well and very much connected as it has to do with Highway 6 98 and development. And so it's important that a person 7 representing that area can look at the picture as a whole 8 and sometimes even act as a mediator between counties as 9 they disagree with each other about how to count traffic or 10 how to deal with the problems that we have. Thank you for 11 hearing me and we wish you all the best as you tackle this 12 challenging issue.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 3 withdrew. 14 Number 4. WE have dual presenters, two minutes each.</p> <p>15 MS. GAGER: Hi, I'm Lynn Gager, I am representing Gulf 16 Coast Community College Citizen Leadership Institute. It 17 is the work of the Citizen Leadership Institute to bring 18 the community together. In a partnership that was created 19 under the umbrella and the support of our Bay County 20 Chamber of Commerce, they were busy about, talking about 21 redistricting with our business leaders and industry 22 leaders, but realized that was just one portion of our 23 community.</p> <p>24 So, the Chamber asked the College of Citizen 25 Leadership Institute to partner with them to talk about</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 and we said, Citizens, these are our choices, on October 2 the 16th we will have an opportunity for your voice to be 3 heard, what do you want your state policy makers to know, 4 what perspectives should we say to them? So I'm here 5 representing that voice.</p> <p>6 You will see on your blue piece of paper now, flip to 7 that, this is a product of the town meeting on October the 8 4th, and respectively, Florida Senate, Florida House, and 9 U.S. Congress. You will notice we framed it in the problem 10 statement, what's facing us, what are citizens in Bay 11 County, what are they saying, what was their common ground. 12 And you will see, for the Florida Senate, that all of Bay 13 County should be in a one-Senator district.</p> <p>14 It gave you a rationale for that thought, this is a 15 rationale from the citizens as a part of that town meeting. 16 And then we have a quote from one citizen as a part of that 17 that said, "We need someone who wakes up every morning 18 thinking about Bay County."</p> <p>19 For the Florida House you will see the same structure, 20 our problem statement. Our common ground statement is, 21 construct a compact county in Bay County. You will see the 22 rationale and then you will see the citizen statement as a 23 part of the town meeting, "If it ain't broke, don't fix 24 it."</p> <p>25 For the U.S. Congress, the same structure in terms of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 this issue so that when we came before you today we could 2 stand before you and say, our community has deliberated 3 this issue. Our community has had a town meeting and we 4 have talked about this and our community has come together 5 with consensus statements.</p> <p>6 What I'm presenting to you now, in the larger print 7 that is more on the beige paper is the work of the Citizen 8 Leadership Institute in framing the discussion for public 9 dialogue. You will notice the three larger columns titled, 10 Florida Senate, Florida House, and U.S. Congress. Within 11 that you will notice that we framed it into choices, Choice 12 One, Choice Two and Choice Three. And within each of those 13 choices, respectively, for each column area and for each 14 representation area, you will notice that there is those 15 who may be in support of this choice and what perspective 16 they may have, those in opposition of this choice and what 17 perceptions they may have.</p> <p>18 That is the framing that was done in preparation of 19 community dialogue. This work is presented to you by our 20 work and our partnership with the Kettering Foundation. 21 Many of you may be familiar with the work of the Kettering 22 Foundation out of Dayton, Ohio. But anyway, we wanted to 23 come together and put this in the public's terms.</p> <p>24 So on October the 4th, the Gulf Coast Community 25 College's Citizen Leadership Institute had a town meeting,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 problem statement. The common ground statement there was, 2 have all of Bay County in one district. The rationale 3 statement, and the citizen statement during the forum was, 4 "We need to be a district where we have only -- where only 5 two bases are represented."</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.</p> <p>7 MS. GAGER: And that is really my last comment. I 8 wanted to make a comment too, we have some state policy 9 makers in the midst who have used Gulf Coast Community 10 College's work, Senator Clary, Senator Peaden, Senator 11 Lawson, Representative Kilmer and Representative Bense each 12 year come together at Gulf Coast Community College and we 13 use this same process. Thank you very much.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 5. And this is 15 also a tag team.</p> <p>16 MS. NELSON: My name is Pam Nelson and I am the state 17 committee woman for the Bay County Democratic party.</p> <p>18 MR. ROBERTS: And I'm Bobby Roberts, I am chairman of 19 the Bay County Republican Executive Committee. So we are 20 standing here today unified in our thought process of what 21 we would like to request of you when it comes to 22 reapportionment. I would also like to let you know that 23 John Carter, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee 24 has also given Pam his blessings for being here as he is 25 not able to be here due to a prior commitment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 I would like to echo the sentiments that you have 2 already heard today, actually starting probably with the 3 Congressional race first because that is probably the one 4 that has the greatest impact in this particular area, and 5 give you a couple of illustrations as to why. There is 6 only two things that can really affect a campaign, that's 7 money and votes. And unfortunately, when you look at it 8 from a Congressional level, we are on the western edge of 9 District 2 and the eastern edge of District 1, sometimes 10 referred to strictly as no-man's land. 11 So then our votes never has the impact that it really 12 could have when it comes to affecting decisions from a 13 Congressional level. So, we would like to echo the 14 sentiments as we stand here united together, that from a 15 Congressional standpoint we would like for Bay County to be 16 in one district. And because of the unique location of 17 Tyndall Air Force Base and Naval Coastal System's 18 Laboratory, we would like for that to be included in that 19 district, currently making that District 2 for Bay County. 20 Taking the House seat as well, as they were saying, if 21 it ain't broke, don't fix it. But we would like to say Bay 22 County still be structured as a one-county area. The State 23 Senate the same way. And a couple of other reasons why is, 24 if you look at it from a media standpoint, this is what is 25 called an ADI, an area of dominant influence. We believe DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 as to why the community leaders in the community that has a 2 very strong proclivity to vote Republican are here today 3 endorsing the concept of having our entire county placed in 4 a Congressional District that is currently held by a 5 Democrat and probably will be held by a Democrat on into 6 the future. I think the reason that most of us have for 7 that support is that we are critically interested in the 8 protection of our Air Force base and the protection of the 9 Coastal Systems Station. 10 These along with tourism are what really drive the 11 economy, not just the economy but the quality of life in 12 our community. And we feel very strongly that Congressman 13 Boyd, we know that he has been a defender of our bases, 14 he's well connected in Congress. We know firsthand that 15 he's well connected in the Pentagon. We are very, very 16 anxious for our county to remain in his Congressional 17 District so that our bases will be adequately protected in 18 what we believe to be an upcoming BRAC in probably '02 or 19 '03. 20 The second resolution also passed unanimously by the 21 Panama City Commission relates to having our county all in 22 one senatorial district. I was very interested in the 23 presentations from Walton County where they certainly do 24 have a diversity of interests. We don't have that. And I 25 would think that no matter where you went in Bay County you DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 that with the media being the focus from Bay County we can 2 actually serve a greater need to not only the residents of 3 Bay County but the surrounding areas, and that the more, or 4 rather the less representation we have as far as individual 5 people, the easier it is to convey that message to the 6 other people in the Bay County area so they don't have to 7 figure out which street they live on to determine who their 8 representatives are. 9 So, we do hope that you will take this into 10 consideration in your deliberations and recognize once 11 again that both parties are here today asking for this 12 request. And I have one other thing to put in the minutes 13 that I forgot. On August 22nd, the Republican Executive 14 Committee also passed a resolution endorsing the same that 15 I would like to leave and make part of the record. 16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 6. 17 MR. CLEMONS: Mr. Chairman, committee members, I'm 18 Gerry Clemons, I am currently the mayor of the City of 19 Panama City. The resolutions that I just passed you were 20 unanimously voted on by the Panama City Commission 21 endorsing having all of Bay County in Congressional 22 District 2, and the second one endorses the concept of 23 having all of Bay County in one Senatorial District if at 24 all possible. 25 Maybe some of you who are in this area may be puzzled DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 would find agreement that the military bases and tourism 2 are the driving forces for success, present and future, of 3 our county. Thank you very much for the opportunity to 4 make this presentation. 5 One other thing. We did not take a position on the 6 State House. Personally I very much hope that all of 7 Panama City will remain in Representative Bense's district. 8 Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 7. 10 MR. HOWARD: Good morning. My name is Herbert Howard, 11 I serve as President of the Bay County branch of the 12 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 13 NAACP. First of all, let me just say to you that we have 14 left a copy of this statement with the staff person out 15 front and we ask that this be made a part of your record. 16 First, let me thank this committee for the opportunity 17 to make this brief statement for the record of this 18 hearing. The Florida State Conference will make a full 19 statement to this body prior to the conclusion of your 20 hearing in October. 21 There are a number of things that concern us about the 22 redistricting process. The most important element at this 23 point is the nature of the standards that the Florida 24 Legislature would use in drawing Legislative and 25 Congressional Districts. The standards that you establish DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 will impact this state and its constituencies for the next 2 ten years. These standards will determine whether this 3 state adheres to the concept of one person, one vote, and 4 they will certainly determine whether all of the voters of 5 this state have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of 6 their choice to the State House, the State Senate, and the 7 United States Congress.</p> <p>8 It is equally important to the NAACP that you develop 9 a process that respects the principles of no regression. 10 The past two redistricting sessions created a number of 11 opportunities that allowed various communities to be able 12 to elect candidates of their choice for the first time in 13 the modern history of this state. We believe that those 14 opportunities must be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>15 The NAACP believes that the redistricting process must 16 preserve the concept of minority representation. The 17 redistricting process that you will undertake will 18 drastically reshape the political map of this state. The 19 growth in population and the accompanying need to increase 20 the population of Legislator's districts is significant. A 21 brief review of the current map showed that most of the 22 district currently considered to be majority minority 23 districts are currently underpopulated.</p> <p>24 It is important that care be taken to ensure that the 25 character of these districts and to ensure that the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 MR. ARTMAN: Good morning, my name is Dave Artman, I 2 am a senior vice-president of Applied Research Associates 3 of Bay County, Florida. We have 170 people in Bay County, 4 and since I are one I can say, they are all scientists and 5 engineers, and some people call them nerds, but they are 6 scientists and engineers. But as a company of over 100 7 people in Bay County we have the highest per capita income 8 of anybody in Bay County.</p> <p>9 What's important to us today is that you remember that 10 we believe that this district deserves one Federal 11 Representative. We believe that Congressman Boyd has done 12 more than just a good job, he's done a terrific job 13 representing what's important to us in Bay County. Now is 14 not the time to send a freshman to Congress representing 15 our needs there, as far as Department of Defense, as it 16 represents a third of the income of the economic base of 17 this county.</p> <p>18 We believe that now is not the time to be establishing 19 a network relationship, understanding what Congress 20 congressional committees you need to be on, understanding 21 the issues that are important to Bay County and all of us 22 here. Now is the time to keep Bay County in Congressional 23 District 2 and keep Congressman Boyd there as our 24 representative.</p> <p>25 As we said earlier, it's not broken, so now is not the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 communities and common interests be kept together. The 2 people who will be served by these districts must be 3 influenced by the determination of common interests.</p> <p>4 It's also important that you provide these public 5 opportunities for input into the way that the process will 6 be carried out, that you provide an equal opportunity for 7 input in the actual process of drawing districts. There 8 are any number of groups that will seek to influence this 9 activity. It is very important that you provide every 10 opportunity through as many avenues as possible to allow 11 all interested parties to actually participate in crafting 12 the districts which will serve them through the next ten 13 years.</p> <p>14 The NAACP looks forward to working with the members of 15 this committee and your staff during the next few months on 16 behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of 17 Colored People. It is important that when this process is 18 completed that the constituencies are convinced that there 19 is power in their vote. This means that they must be 20 clearly able to influence the election of those people who 21 will make public policy in their communities. This means 22 that the standards that you apply to this process as well 23 as the process itself must be true to our democratic 24 principles. Thank you for this opportunity.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 8.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 time to fix it. I appreciate your time. And you have a 2 good day.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 9.</p> <p>4 MS. ANDERS: Yes, I am Jim Anders, and I am chairman 5 of the Republican Executive Committee in Walton County. 6 And our first two speakers, Mike Underwood, our county 7 administrator and then county commissioner Tim Pauls said 8 it all, we have different problems in the north end of the 9 county than we do in the south. In the south end we have 10 problems more like in Destin and Panama City. And in the 11 north end we are more rural. So, we like the 12 representation that we are having now, and I would just 13 like to back up the first two speakers. Thank you.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 10.</p> <p>15 MR. YORK: Mr. Chairman, and committee members, thank 16 you for the opportunity to speak. I'm Guy York, I am a 17 defense contractor in Bay County and also in Northwest 18 Florida. I will speak today primarily to the Congressional 19 redistricting. My greatest concern is maintaining the 20 viability of our two military bases, as you have heard 21 earlier, in Bay County, to keep these bases from being 22 closed. One thing that may not have been mentioned, that 23 one-third of the economy of Bay County comes from the 24 military. And not only that, they present a lot more to 25 this county in the way of leadership and other avenues and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 benefits that we benefit from having the military bases 2 here.</p> <p>3 And as many of you may know that the Department of 4 Defense is pushing very hard right now to cut military 5 infrastructure, which is the bases. They have asked for a 6 25 percent cut. Congress is likely to pass a base closure 7 legislation this year. In fact, the United States Senate 8 has already approved base closure measures for the year 9 2003.</p> <p>10 Now, for Bay County to compete in a base closure 11 environment we need to do two things. One, both of Bay 12 County bases need to be in a district by themselves. We 13 must be in a district that does not include Pensacola Naval 14 Air Station, Eglin, Hurlburt or the bases in Okaloosa and 15 Escambia County. Number two, we need to have a district 16 with an encumbered Congressman like we currently have in 17 District 2. My recommendation, very strong recommendation, 18 is that all of Bay County be in District 2. Thank you 19 again for this opportunity.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 11. Number 11. 21 Number 12.</p> <p>22 MR. DANTZLER: Mr. Chairman and Committee, I'm Larry 23 Dantzler, I'm appearing before you today as the president 24 of the Bay Defense Alliance. For those who don't know what 25 the Bay Defense Alliance is, it is an organization which</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 County's military bases will not be impacted by a 2 commitment to military bases located elsewhere in the same 3 Congressional District. And those -- and whose seniority 4 and committee assignments will further serve to help 5 strengthen Tyndall Air Force Base and Coastal Systems 6 Station. Therefore, the Bay Defense Alliance encourages 7 the Florida Legislature to adopt a reapportionment plan 8 which will place all of Bay County in Congressional 9 District 2. Thank you.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 13.</p> <p>11 MR. WOLFF: Good morning. My name is Ron Wolff, I am 12 a former health care executive of Bay Medical Center and an 13 active member of the Chamber of Commerce, sit on the 14 Government Relations Committee and also our Military 15 Affairs Committee. I'll try to be brief, I won't be 16 repetitive of what you have heard so far today, but I 17 believe that you are going to find that stopping in Bay 18 County is going to be one of your most pleasurable stops in 19 your arduous tour in your job as you have ahead of you, 20 because you are about to see something in this county 21 that's different than other counties. We are pretty much 22 unified, and the plans that you have laid before you 23 represent a consensus that was not easy to reach, but 24 nonetheless, it is a consensus. And I think you will find 25 it very rare when the two political parties stand before</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 came together very rapidly after the 1993 base closure when 2 we found out that Tyndall came very close to appearing on 3 that closure list. We since then, except for a couple-year 4 hiatus, have worked closely with the state, with our 5 Congressman and with the Department of Defense to present 6 both of our military installations in a favorable light to 7 them to work with them. We have worked very hard with the 8 Florida Defense Alliance. We were just over at a meeting 9 in Pensacola Friday discussing things that we need to do to 10 help our military installations.</p> <p>11 But I have a written statement here which I would like 12 to present to you. The Bay Defense Alliance concurs with 13 the Chamber of Commerce's statement, which I believe was 14 given to you because it ran out of time, and that is, Bay 15 County constitutes a district community of interest with 16 its own tourism corridor and two military bases with unique 17 and complementary missions. And I would like to add that 18 the financial impact of tourism and military is vital to 19 Bay County's continued economic well-being. Tourism is one 20 and a-half billion dollars per year, and the combined 21 military roughly one billion dollars per year is very 22 important to the economic well-being of all Bay County.</p> <p>23 The members of Bay Defense Alliance strongly believe 24 that the citizens of Bay County need the continued 25 influence of a member of Congress whose commitment to Bay</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 you and are unified in what we all want for this county.</p> <p>2 And the plan that we are laying before you, I hope you 3 give it very serious consideration because it does 4 represent the views of all of the people of Bay County. We 5 do need a single senatorial district. I think that's 6 something that we have been lacking. I have had to deal 7 with the Legislature many times in the past and found out 8 that one of the weaknesses that we have had as far as 9 getting relief in the Legislature for some of the problems 10 that we have in Bay County.</p> <p>11 I agree with everyone else, we are very proud to be a 12 part of Allen Bense's district. We need to keep that 13 district. It has worked well for us and has really has 14 helped this county strive and prosper. As part of the 15 Congressional District we are all unified on that, this is 16 not a political decision. But I will tell you, the bases 17 are extremely important to our local economy and we do need 18 solid representation and Congressman Boyd has provided 19 that.</p> <p>20 We all know that politicians change as time goes by 21 with the re-elections and term limits, et cetera, but the 22 plan that you lay before you will be in place for ten 23 years. And Bay County is going to be growing more and more 24 in ten years. We are number 25 now, we will probably creep 25 up that scale in the future. So, we all appeal to you to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 really consider the remarks that you hear today because I 2 think you are going to find one voice with all of the 3 people that present before you today and I add my voice to 4 that. Thank you.</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 14.</p> <p>6 MS. PIPKIN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of 7 the House and Senate. My name is Gloria Pipkin and I 8 represent the Florida Coalition for Assessment Reform. I 9 am here to urge you to support and adopt the issues 10 outlined in a statement on fairness that was presented to 11 you in Tallahassee at the first public hearing. Rather 12 repeating what has already been said, I would like to focus 13 the importance on holding at least a few regional hearings 14 to report back to us after you have adopted criteria for 15 drawing districts and after you have actually developed 16 some maps.</p> <p>17 We realize that the Legislature will be meeting in 18 Tallahassee in January and the public will have an 19 opportunity, as it always does, to participate in committee 20 hearings. However, as you know, it's difficult and 21 expensive for most people to travel to Tallahassee in order 22 to participate. We also understand that each of our 23 individual legislators will be responsible for sharing 24 information with their constituents; however, we do believe 25 that it would be helpful for the committees to hold at DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 missions. Therefore, I am in favor of reapportioning Bay 2 County to serve that purpose, which I believe means putting 3 all of Bay County in one U.S. Congressional District, not 4 included with District 1 where representation would be 5 divided with five other military installations. It also 6 means putting all of Bay County in one State Senate 7 District and to keep the House representation similar to 8 the way it is today. Thank you.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 16.</p> <p>10 MR. McDONALD: Mr. Chairman, thank you so much, my 11 name is Tommy McDonald, I am the mayor of the City of 12 Chipley and the Executive Director of the Chamber of 13 Commerce and the Economic Developer for Washington County. 14 We are on the line; however, I would like to echo what was 15 said here tonight, we do not need to change anything in 16 Washington County. We are exactly where we need to be with 17 our Congressional District with Congressman Boyd who has 18 been a friend of Washington County's for a long time. And 19 the Senator and the Representative we have is probably the 20 best representation that we have ever had in Washington 21 County as long as I can remember.</p> <p>22 And the other beauty of being on the line is that we 23 have representation, or we feel like we are represented by 24 Senator Peaden and Representative Brown, Representative 25 Kilmer, Allen Bense, Jerry Melvin, Charlie Clary all DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 least a few meetings outside of Tallahassee once there 2 actually something specific to respond to.</p> <p>3 We understand that this will be difficult given the 4 pressures of the session; however, this is such a critical 5 process that it is important for as many people as possible 6 to have an opportunity to respond to what you do with the 7 information that you are currently in the process of 8 gathering. It is equally important for us to understand 9 what has gone into the thinking behind the drawing of 10 particular districts. As has already been pointed out, it 11 is people that live in communities who will be the best 12 informed on what their community's interest is and how it 13 will be affected by lines that have been drawn.</p> <p>14 We would appreciate being able to continue to share 15 our views with all of you. Thank you for your time and for 16 the opportunity to speak to you.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 15.</p> <p>18 MS. WYATT: Hi, my name is Sheryl Wyatt, I am the 19 daughter of a United States Air Force veteran and I 20 currently work out at Tyndall Air Force Base. In light of 21 the current attack on United States' soil I have been made 22 more aware of the need of a very strong military. Tyndall 23 Air Force Base and the Navy's Coastal Systems' Station have 24 strong missions and they need strong representation by all 25 of our elected officials to successfully complete those DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 represent Washington County, and also, Senator Alex Diaz 2 Portilla [sic], is that his name, from Miami, he represents 3 Washington County pretty well too. So, we are real proud 4 of what we have got and where we are. And we don't want to 5 change anything. I have never seen the spirit of 6 cooperation among our elected officials in Northwest 7 Florida, ever, and we would like to stay exactly where we 8 are. And we would appreciate Washington County -- and I 9 know it's going to have to move and Washington County is on 10 the line so it's going to be ify in some cases, but please, 11 if you could, just leave it the way it is I would greatly 12 appreciate it. Thank you.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 17.</p> <p>14 MR. AHIGREN: It is almost noon. Good afternoon 15 distinguished panel, I'm Richard Ahigren, I am the 16 executive director of the resident's political action 17 committee known as RESPAC out in the beaches area. I have 18 one question and I hope maybe you can answer it now. 19 During redistricting is it possible for a new political 20 subdivision to be created? Can anybody answer that? Is it 21 possible for a political subdivision?</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No.</p> <p>23 MR. AHIGREN: Okay, that answers my question then. 24 Thank you very much.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 18. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 REVEREND LOUIS LAMAR: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, 2 members of the House and Senate, I am Reverend Louis Lamar 3 and I pastor a church here in Panama City. I stand before 4 you as a concerned citizen and also as a member of the 5 clergy. One of the real concerns that I have is in this 6 redistricting process is the consideration given to 7 minority representation. We know that Florida is growing 8 very fast and I think the population mix reflects a very 9 diverse population. And I don't want you to be insensitive 10 to that. 11 I also am involved in our state convention, I am in 12 contact with many pastors throughout the state of Florida. 13 We pastor many of the people that vote for you. And that's 14 not a threat, it is just a fact. And we would like to have 15 equity in this entire process. 16 One of the members that represents Bay County lives in 17 Bay County, that is representative Allen Bense. It's been 18 nice to go by and talk with him when the need has arisen. 19 Our church was impacted by imminent domain proceedings and 20 he was very instrumental in helping us and it was nice to 21 be able to do that. It would be nice to have others to 22 live within our borders also. 23 And since Representative Bense, and it may have been 24 coincidental, but I think it's because of his hard work, 25 Bay County has seen some dollars coming to it that it has</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 speaker's bureau and we went out in the community and spoke 2 to such groups at a quarterly elected officials luncheon. 3 Bay County League of Cities and the Bay County League of 4 Women Voters, so I think that you can see by the attendance 5 today that we have created interest in this process here in 6 Bay County. 7 The Chamber passed a resolution, and I'm going to read 8 that resolution in a second, but first I want to say 9 something to preface it. When we as a Chamber determined 10 that our goal was to seek one Senator for Bay County, that 11 was not an easy decision for us to make. We have been more 12 than ably served in the last ten years by the five 13 gentlemen who have served us, Pat Thomas, W.D. Childers, 14 Senator Clary, Senator Lawson, and Senator Peaden. And 15 they have all served us well and we want to make sure that 16 you understand that the county, the Chamber of Commerce's 17 decision to ask for one Senator was hard to make because of 18 the great service that we have had from these Senators. 19 The resolution reads as follows: "Whereas the mission 20 of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce is to develop, 21 enhance and maintain a viable business climate and to 22 provide leadership in the development of economic growth 23 and the quality of life in Bay County. And whereas the 24 current population of Bay County is 155,000, and therefore 25 slightly larger than a State House seat but less than half</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 not seen in the past. We are seeing our schools improved, 2 we are seeing our roads improved. And we, like anyone 3 else, we pay our taxes but we don't feel that we have been 4 getting our fair share of the dollar allocation. So, I 5 just ask you to consider these concerns because whatever 6 decision is made will have to be lived with for the next 7 ten years. Thank you so much. 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 19. You came 9 back. 10 MS. ATKINSON: If at first you don't succeed, try, try 11 again. My name is Carol Atkinson and I am here this 12 morning representing the Bay County Chamber of Commerce. 13 Hugh Rose who is chairman of the board is ill and was 14 unable to attend and asked me to speak on his behalf. 15 "The Chamber of Commerce feels a state and local 16 government committee and national government committee, and 17 in this last two years, a reapportionment committee, those 18 committees work together to host a public seminar at the 19 chamber earlier this year which was opened to and attended 20 by chamber members and nonmembers alike. 21 That public seminar led to the partnership with the 22 Citizens Leadership Institute at Gulf Coast Community 23 College, of which you have already heard, and where we 24 sponsored the town hall meeting. In addition to that, the 25 steering committee for the town hall meeting put together a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 of a State Senate District. And whereas the county 2 constitutes a distinct community of interest with its own 3 tourism corridor and with two military bases with unique 4 and complementary missions. 5 And whereas the community of interest is exemplified 6 by an efficient and effective local health care and social 7 service area as well as common media. And whereas the 8 division of Bay County into multiple Senate Districts has 9 led to representation by Senators who in some cases live 10 over two hours away and represent areas with divergent 11 interest. And whereas the Citizens Leadership Institute of 12 Gulf Coast Community College moderated a town hall meeting 13 on October 4th, 2001, where the public found common ground 14 concerning the election districts of the Florida State 15 Senate, the Florida House of Representatives, and the U.S. 16 Congress for the Bay County area. 17 And whereas it was the consensus of the participants 18 in the town hall meeting that the Greater Bay County area 19 would be better served if Bay County fully contains one 20 Senate House District and falls entirely with one State 21 Senate District and falls in Congressional District 2 22 containing both Tyndall Air Force Base and Coastal Systems' 23 Station." 24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds. 25 MS. ATKINSON: "Therefore, be it resolved that the Bay</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 County Chamber of Commerce urges the Florida Legislature to 2 adopt a reapportionment plan which affects those 3 resolutions." Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. That is the last 5 appearance card that I have. Therefore, as has been our 6 custom, we allow members of the delegation to address the 7 citizens and then any other member of the panel can after 8 that.</p> <p>9 So, if there are those within the delegation of this 10 general area that would like to speak, I would be glad to 11 recognize you now. Representative Bense.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE BENSE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First 13 of all, I want to welcome my fellow colleagues in the House 14 and folks from the Senate for coming to Panama City. I 15 know it is a long trip for some of you. I see 16 Representative Needelman here from Brevard County and 17 Representative Kravitz from Duval County, and they are from 18 all over the state. Representative Lacasa from Pasco and 19 Pinellas and a couple others. Mario Diaz-Balart from Dade 20 County. And we do appreciate your coming here. Welcome. 21 The weather is like this every single day in my district, 22 so you are welcome to come back. Isn't that right, isn't 23 that right? You are the Chamber of Commerce now.</p> <p>24 But I also want to remind folks in the audience that 25 there is an election today. Congressional District No. 1</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 need your help in that we need to establish a branch campus 2 of FSU over in Bay County." And being in the House and 3 with him in the Senate and Senator Thomas over there, we 4 worked very hard to make this facility a reality. So it's 5 always good to come back and visit the facility.</p> <p>6 When I was campaigning over here last year, as one of 7 the, I guess the concerns and issues that was expressed is 8 that they felt like they had too many Senators representing 9 them and they wanted to be in one Senate District. Long 10 before I came to represent this particular area when 11 Representative Bense came to the House and I was not 12 representing this area but I always worked to make sure 13 that some of the things that was important to people in 14 this area, that I had a great deal of input.</p> <p>15 During my tenure in the Senate, it's been very brief 16 even though I have served 19 years in the House and 18 17 years in the House and one year in the Senate so far, I 18 thought that the county was very fortunate to have Senator 19 Clary serving in the Senate and Senator Peaden simply 20 because he chairs the general government committee which is 21 a very powerful committee in the Senate and I have the 22 opportunity to serve on that committee with him. And we 23 get a chance as Senators, we don't say, what are you going 24 to do for Leon, what are you going to do for Jackson 25 County, what are you going to do for Walton County, but</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 has a -- there is a general election, so be sure to vote. 2 I would like to see more stickers on shirts, so don't 3 forget to turn out and vote today.</p> <p>4 And I want to thank my constituents that are here 5 today. If there was a more orderly or congenial meeting 6 around the state I would be surprised because we get along 7 in Bay County, and I'm really proud of Bay County, I am 8 really proud to serve you folks and I'm proud of the way 9 that you presented yourselves today. I concur that having 10 three Senators in one district in Bay County is probably 11 too many, and I think they got the message fairly loud and 12 clear today about the Congressional issue as well.</p> <p>13 So, again, I appreciate your demeanor, your tone, your 14 attitude, and I'm very, very proud of all of you. Thank 15 you very much.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Lawson.</p> <p>17 SENATOR LAWSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, 18 and greetings to all of you here today. I was thinking 19 when I was hearing the community speak about what they 20 wanted in a Senate seat as well as in a House and a 21 Congressional seat, I was reminded when I was driving up to 22 this campus that I had a great deal to do with this 23 facility being here established where we are today. I 24 wasn't even representing this area. I can remember when 25 Senator Barron came over to me and told me, said, "Al, I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 what we do is meet with each other and determine, what are 2 the needs for the county to see what the House members are 3 working on so that we can do everything that we possibly 4 can in the Senate to make sure that those are reality.</p> <p>5 So, when you see airport projects and you see road 6 projects and all of the funding that you get, it just 7 doesn't happen in one area, it happens because you have 8 people that have been very committed to making sure that 9 whatever takes place in North Florida, that we are at the 10 forefront of those, and I would tell the chamber and the 11 political parties and everyone to keep that in mind. We 12 are going to work hard to give you exactly what you really 13 want, but you need to know that you have a lot of friends, 14 that might not be in the county all of time, might be two 15 hour hours away, that works very hard for your issues where 16 your county is concerned.</p> <p>17 I mean, it's been a rewarding experience to have the 18 opportunity to represent you. I have always felt that I 19 represented this area even when I wasn't here. So I want 20 to thank you all for coming out today and we are going -- I 21 look forward to having more communication with you so that 22 we can make sure that we do what you would like to have 23 done in Bay County. Thank you.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Kilmer.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE KILMER: Thank you. I would like to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 reiterate what Representative Bense has said. I am on the 2 redistricting committee and the procedural and 3 redistricting council and I have been traveling the entire 4 state this summer and I have never, ever attended a meeting 5 that was as well thought out, as well prepared and as well 6 unified.</p> <p>7 And to have the Democratic party and the Republican 8 party to stand up hand-in-hand and say, "This is what we 9 need for this area," is so impressive to me and I want to 10 thank you, this entire community, for coming together. You 11 thought it out, you prepared, you held meetings, you came 12 as a unified group. I fell like our delegation is very, 13 very strong because we truly respect each other, we work 14 hand-in-hand for you, but the fact that we came here and 15 listened to you today saying, "This is what we altogether 16 want to see happen" warms my heart very, very much. And I 17 want to thank you.</p> <p>18 I am not going to elaborate on all of the things that 19 all of your delegation has done, that's not my job here 20 today, we came to listen to you talk and I want you to know 21 we heard what you said and we appreciate very much what you 22 said and the fact that you came together to say it. Thank 23 you.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Peaden. 25 SENATOR PEADEN: This is about the 23rd we have had DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 agriculture areas or the retirees on the beach. And I 2 think that is the overpowering issue that we have to 3 address today. We can talk about communities of interest, 4 but I think that they really come second to the one man, 5 one vote issue. And I know it's difficult to look at your 6 county and our counties and the different counties we 7 represent. Nobody in the Senate really seems to have a 8 home county, as Representative Lawson said. You know, our 9 community of interest is your community of interest when 10 you get to the Legislature. And as he said, as we sit on 11 those appropriations committees, and these senior members 12 will tell you, you know, we are looking at the problems of 13 Florida as a whole. And our districts are really 14 secondary, if there is anything left over, but globally we 15 try to do what's right for everybody.</p> <p>16 I understand this is a real complicated issue and I 17 believe you are understanding it too. It is not merely 18 taking a cookie cutter and going down 400,000 or 133,000 19 people and go from the west to the east, but it involves 20 people with real faces. And we hope that we can respond to 21 all of the information that you have given us here today 22 about your requests, but you know, we really represent some 23 of those folks that weren't able to be here today, some of 24 those folks that might be working or might be living in 25 areas too distant from here.</p> <p>DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 around the state and we have attended most of them, most 2 everybody has. This is probably the most enlightening and 3 the most analytical approach to redistricting that we have 4 heard throughout the State of Florida. I mean, it is a 5 community effort.</p> <p>6 I wanted to commend, to begin with, Senator Webster 7 and Representative Byrd. This is the most open 8 redistricting has ever been in the state of Florida. This 9 is something in the past that has been done behind closed 10 doors and our districts are the product of those meetings. 11 Today we have an opportunity to interact with the 12 Legislature, and you do too, at home on your computer or in 13 your library's computer through the FREDs unit. All of the 14 information is there that you have seen today as well as 15 proposals that you might make and E-mail to the committee 16 as it begins to work through the process.</p> <p>17 You have heard the legal theories that have been given 18 by Senator Scott. And we have heard them again and again 19 around the state, with a little different descriptions in 20 different areas, but basically it boils down to the most 21 important thing is, one man, one vote. And you want to 22 make sure that that voter in Paxton has the same vote and 23 power to vote as the guy in Panama City, and the guy in 24 Navarre and Niceville have the same count.</p> <p>25 We don't dilute the folks in the rural areas and the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 So, with that consideration and with what Senator 2 Webster has done as far as making that information 3 available and your input continually available throughout 4 the process, and as Senator Scott says, some of those 5 issues are still unfolding in court as we speak, we'll try 6 to assimilate a redistricting map that will fit everybody's 7 wants, and desires, and furnish adequate representation.</p> <p>8 And they can tell you, you know, I think that we have 9 real good representation all over this state. There's one 10 issue that kind of confounds me, though. I think when the 11 mayor of Chipley spoke, I think that we have one 12 constitutional problem that we haven't seen all over the 13 state that we are going to have to look at. Senator 14 Webster, thank you.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Clary. 16 SENATOR CLARY: Thank you. I would also like to 17 welcome everyone here and I appreciate your attendance and 18 your interaction, your presentations to the committee. I'm 19 not part of the committee, but I felt it important to be 20 here to hear what was said and listen to the discussion of 21 the committee members in their comments back to you. I 22 think it's been the policy of the committee that this is a 23 legislative hearing and not a, as one person termed it, not 24 a legislative talking. So, they were here to gather 25 information to hear what you had to say and try to respond</p> <p>DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

to that as closely as they can, and I think they will do that. Senator Webster provides great leadership and this is a very good committee to be working on this reapportionment process.

So, as one of your delegation members and your Senator, it really pleases me to see how you are so much a part of this community and want to have your voices heard and in the manner that you presented today. So, thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Anyone else?

(No audible response.)

CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for coming. The meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA:

COUNTY OF LEON:

I, MONA L. WHIDDON, Court Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.

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